

NCLB Highly Qualified Teachers Myths and Facts

Myths	Facts
Only school districts participating under Title 1 must meet the NCLB requirements.	All public schools and public school academies are expected to meet the NCLB requirements.
All teachers with Michigan teaching certificates are considered Highly Qualified.	All Michigan teachers must document their highly qualified status through one of the identified avenues in Michigan’s Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers. This document can be found on the State Board of Education Policy web page. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/definitionofhighlyqualifiedteachers_63281_7.pdf
No one with an “X” code is considered highly qualified.	Recipients of group majors and group minors, who have passed the related MTTC test, are considered highly qualified to teach the group area. For example, those who have earned the social studies endorsement (RX) are highly qualified to teach social studies classes, but not classes specifically labeled economics, geography, history, or political science. Teachers who earned a group minor before MTTC testing, would have to meet one of the HOUSSE options in order to be considered highly qualified in the group area.
Certified teachers can pass the MTTC to show they are highly qualified to teach <u>any</u> subject.	Certified teachers can pass the MTTC to show they are highly qualified for any class that their Michigan certification licenses them to teach. Using again the RX example, by Michigan policy, a certified teacher with an RX endorsement (earned by completing either a group major or group minor) is licensed to teach social studies, economics, geography, history, or political science. An individual holding the RX endorsement may take the MTTC in social studies, economics, geography, history, or political science. He/she could not pass the MTTC to demonstrate that he/she was “highly qualified” for any other subject (unless covered by another endorsement on his/her certificate).

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School districts cannot hire new teachers who have endorsements based on completion of a minor.	New teachers (subsequent to 1992) will have passed the MTTC in their major and minor and thus are considered “highly qualified.”
Special education teachers will not be required to be “highly qualified” under NCLB.	Decisions regarding special education teachers have not been finalized. The House and Senate are presently each considering conflicting proposals.
After 2005-2006 “highly qualified” will no longer be an issue.	The current NCLB legislation applies to teachers of “English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.” Other content areas may be added in the future.
Teachers do not need to be highly qualified in content not specified by NCLB.	See above response. In addition, many school districts are requiring that <u>all</u> teachers meet the requirements of NCLB and HOUSSSE, feeling that it is unfair to require this of only some of their staff. They also want to avoid the impression that the only teachers that are highly qualified are those teaching English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography.
Teacher certification is not a requirement for teaching if individuals completed an academic major in the subject they would teach.	NCLB first requires that teachers hold a bachelor’s degree from an approved institution as well as a Michigan teaching certificate.
If a teacher holding a group code passes an MTTC specialty test for a sub-code, the sub-code will be placed on their certificate. For example, if a teacher with a social studies (RX) endorsement passes the history (CC) test, the CC will be added to their teaching certificate.	In Michigan,... candidates must complete a preparation program, pass the related MTTC test, and be recommended by a teacher preparation institution that has an approved program for the specialty program before an endorsement will be placed on their teaching certificate. Passing the MTTC for purposes of establishing “highly qualified” for NCLB will not result in new endorsements on Michigan teaching certificates.